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AUTHORITY: 17 U.S.C. 114, 801(b)(1).

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§ 260.1 General.

(a) This part 260 establishes terms and rates of royalty payments for the public performance of sound recordings by nonexempt subscription digital transmission services in accordance with the provisions of 17 U.S.C. 114 and 801(b)(1).

(b) Upon compliance with 17 U.S.C. 114 and the terms and rates of this part, a nonexempt subscription digital transmission service may engage in the activities set forth in 17 U.S.C. 114.

§ 260.2 Royalty fees for the digital performance of sound recordings.

(a) Commencing June 1, 1998, the royalty fee for the digital performance of sound recordings by nonexempt subscription digital services shall be 6.5% of gross revenues resulting from residential services in the United States.

(b) A nonexempt subscription digital transmission service (the "Licensee") shall pay a late fee of 1.5% per month, or the highest lawful rate, whichever is lower, for any payment received after the due date. Late fees shall accrue from the due date until payment is received.

(c)(1) For purposes of this section, *gross revenues* shall mean all monies derived from the operation of the programming service of the Licensee and shall be comprised of the following:

(i) Monies received by Licensee from Licensee's carriers and directly from residential U.S. subscribers for Licensee's programming service;

(ii) Licensee's advertising revenues (as billed), or other monies received from sponsors if any, less advertising agency commissions not to exceed 15% of those fees incurred to recognized advertising agency not owned or controlled by Licensee;

(iii) Monies received for the provision of time on the Programming Service to any third party;

(iv) Monies received from the sale of time to providers of paid programming such as infomercials;

(v) Where merchandise or anything or service of value is received by licensee in lieu of cash consideration for the use of Licensee's programming service, the fair market value thereof or Licensee's prevailing published rate, whichever is less;

(vi) Monies or other consideration received by Licensee from Licensee's carriers, but not including monies received by Licensee's carriers from others and not accounted for by Licensee's carriers to Licensee, for the provision of hardware by anyone and used in connection with the Programming Service;

(vii) Monies or other consideration received for any references to or inclusion of any product or service on the programming service; and

(viii) Bad debts recovered regarding paragraphs (c)(1) (i) through (vii) of this section.

(2) Gross revenues shall include such payments as are in paragraphs (c)(1) (i) through (viii) of this section to which Licensee is entitled but which are paid to a parent, subsidiary, division, or affiliate of Licensee, in lieu of payment to Licensee but not including payments to Licensee's carriers for the programming service. Licensee shall be allowed a deduction from "gross revenues" as defined in paragraph (c)(1) of this section for affiliate revenue returned during the reporting period and for bad debts actually written off during reporting period.

(d) During any given payment period, the value of each performance of each digital sound recording shall be the same.

§ 260.3 Terms for making payment of royalty fees.

(a) All royalty payments shall be made to a designated agent(s), to be determined by the parties through voluntary license agreements or by a duly appointed Copyright Arbitration Royalty Panel pursuant to the procedures set forth in subchapter B of 37 CFR, part 251.

(b) Payment shall be made on the twentieth day after the end of each month for that month, commencing

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with the month succeeding the month in which the royalty fees are set.

(c) The agent designated to receive the royalty payments and the statements of account shall have the responsibility of making further distribution of these fees to those parties entitled to receive such payment according to the provisions set forth at 17 U.S.C. 114(g).

(d) The designated agent may deduct reasonable costs incurred in the administration of the distribution of the royalties, so long as the reasonable costs do not exceed the actual costs incurred by the collecting entity.

(e) Commencing June 1, 1998, and until such time as a new designation is made, the Recording Industry Association of America, Inc. shall be the agent receiving royalty payments and statements of account.

[63 FR 25413, May 8, 1998, as amended at 63 FR 30636, June 5, 1998]

§ 260.4 Confidential information and statements of account.

(a) For purposes of this part, confidential information shall include statements of account and any information pertaining to the statements of account designated as confidential by the nonexempt subscription digital transmission service filing the statement. Confidential information shall also include any information so designated in a confidentiality agreement which has been duly executed between a nonexempt subscription digital transmission service and an interested party, or between one or more interested parties; *Provided* that all such information shall be made available, for the verification proceedings provided for in §§ 260.5 and 260.6 of this part.

(b) Nonexempt subscription digital transmission services shall submit monthly statements of account on a form provided by the agent designated to collect such forms and the monthly royalty payments.

(c) A statement of account shall include only such information as is necessary to verify the accompanying royalty payment. Additional information beyond that which is sufficient to verify the calculation of the royalty fees shall not be included on the statement of account.

(d) Access to the confidential information pertaining to the royalty payments shall be limited to:

(1) Those employees of the designated agent who are not also employees or officers of a sound recording copyright owner or performing artist, and who, for the purpose of performing their assigned duties during the ordinary course of business, require access to the records; and

(2) An independent and qualified auditor who is not an employee or officer of a sound recording copyright owner or performing artist, but is authorized to act on behalf of the interested copyright owners with respect to the verification of the royalty payments.

(e) The designated agent shall implement procedures to safeguard all confidential financial and business information, including but not limited to royalty payments, submitted as part of the statements of account. Confidential information shall be maintained in locked files.

(f) Books and records relating to the payment of the license fees shall be kept in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles for a period of three years. These records shall include, but are not limited to, the statements of account, records documenting an interested party's share of the royalty fees, and the records pertaining to the administration of the collection process and the further distribution of the royalty fees to those interested parties entitled to receive such fees.

§ 260.5 Verification of statements of account.

(a) *General.* This section prescribes general rules pertaining to the verification of the statements of account by interested parties according to terms promulgated by a duly appointed copyright arbitration royalty panel, under its authority to set reasonable terms and rates pursuant to 17 U.S.C. 114 and 801(b)(1), and the Librarian of Congress under his authority pursuant to 17 U.S.C. 802(f).

(b) *Frequency of verification.* Interested parties may conduct a single